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RECONVENED TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/128

Geneva, 3-5 August 1992

Chairperson-Rapporteur: Mrs. Ligia Galvis (Colombia)

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE RECONVENED TECHNICAL MEETING

1. In its resolution 46/128 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly decided that the Coordinator of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People should convene, early in 1992, a technical meeting of agencies, regional commissions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system with representatives of States, organizations of indigenous peoples and other non-governmental organizations having a special interest in indigenous matters. The meeting was held in Geneva from 9 to 11 March 1992.

2. The meeting was poorly attended by representatives of indigenous organizations and other relevant non-governmental organizations. The meeting expressed its regret at this low participation, noting the short notice given and the lack of financial provision to assist the travel of indigenous peoples.

3. That meeting recommended that the Technical Meeting should be reconvened in Geneva, for three days, before the tenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and that a special effort should be made to ensure the full participation of United Nations agencies, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, it was recommended that sufficient notice be given, and that Governments and intergovernmental organizations should explore ways of assisting representatives of indigenous peoples to attend the reconvened meeting. In particular, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was requested to consider how it could assist indigenous peoples to attend the meeting.

4. It was not possible, for technical reasons, to hold the reconvened meeting on the three days preceding the tenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. However, in order to take advantage of the presence of the delegates to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, it was decided to hold the reconvened meeting on the three days immediately following that meeting.

5. Representatives of indigenous organizations and non-governmental organizations already in Geneva for the Working Group on Indigenous Populations were requested to consider extending their stay to attend the reconvened Technical Meeting. However, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was unable to offer further per diem assistance from the Voluntary Fund to those persons already funded to attend the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

6. The International Labour Office, which had been designated by the General Assembly in resolution 46/18 to work in conjunction with the Coordinator in organizing the activities for the Year, assisted the Secretariat of the meeting.

A. Participation

7. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented at the Technical Meeting: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Guatemala, Guinea, Italy,

Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand. The Holy See was also represented.

8. A representative of Greenland Home Rule Government also attended.

9. The following United Nations departments, organs and specialized agencies were represented: Department of Public Information, UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Office, World Health Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

10. The United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations was represented by Ms. Erica-Irene A. Daes, Chairperson-Rapporteur.

11. The following non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organizations were represented at the Meeting: Ainu Association of Hokkaido, American Indian Anti-Defamation Council, Amnesty International, Anglican Consultative Council, Artists for American Indians, Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact, Asociación Indígena de la República Argentina, Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana, Assembly of First Nations, Association pour las Promotion des Batwa, Central Land Council, Centro Mocovi Ialek Lava, Centro Unión Achiri, Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tawantinsuyana (COJPITA), Comité Exterior Mariqueo, Comité Organizadora Indígena Kaochique, Consejo Indio de Sud América, Coordinadora de Organizaciones Mapuches, Cordillera Peoples Alliance, European Association for American Studies, Federación Pichincha-Riccharimui, Foundation Study and Information of Papuan Peoples, Gesellschaft für Bedrohte Volker, Good Offices Group of European Lawmakers, Grand Council of the Crees, Health for Minorities Working Group, Human Rights Advocates, Human Rights Commission of New Zealand (Aotearoa), Incomindios Suita, Indian Association of Alberta, Indian Council of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (India), International Indian Treaty Council, International Indigenous Commission, International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development, International Romani Union, International Service for Human Rights, Joseph Bighead First Nation, Kimberley Land Council, Korongoro Integrated Peoples Oriented to Conservation, Lelio Basso International Foundation for Rights and Liberation of People, Maori Women's Centre, Maya Ki-che Guatemala (MAB), Mikmag Grand Council, Mosul Vilayet Council, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, National Maori Congress, Native American Task Force, New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, Ngaati Te Ata, Nordic Saami Council, Northern Land Council, Organización de Mujeres Aymaras del Kollasuyo, Organización Nacional de Comunidades Sumus Sukawala (Nicaragua), Organización Regional de la Mujer para el Desarrollo (ORMI), Pacific Asia Council of Indigenous Peoples, Sahabat Alam (Malaysia), Shimin Gaikou Centre, South American Indian Information Centre, Survie Tourarègue Temoust, West Papua Peoples Front, World Council of Churches, World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

12. In addition to the above-mentioned participants, a number of individual scholars, experts on human rights and observers attended the meeting.

B. Agenda

13. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Aims of special projects to be implemented during 1993.
5. Consideration of projects for the International Year:
   - (a) Human rights;
   - (b) Development and environment;
   - (c) Education and culture;
   - (d) Health;
   - (e) Self-management and self-government;
   - (f) Other matters.
6. Public information activities:
   - (a) Official launch;
   - (b) Activities of the Department of Public Information;
   - (c) Other public information activities.
7. Draft guidelines for projects for the International Year.
8. Financial provisions for the International Year.
9. Coordination.
10. Conclusions.

C. Documentation

14. The following documents were made available to the meeting:

E/CN.4/1992/AC.4/TM.2/1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.4/1992/AC.4/TM.2/2	Note by the secretariat

D. Opening of the meeting and election of officers

15. The meeting was opened, on 3 August 1992, by Mr. Antoine Blanca, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and Coordinator of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. Mr. Blanca welcomed the delegates, and recalled that one of his first tasks as Under-Secretary-General had been

to open the first Technical Meeting in March 1992. He explained the need for this reconvened meeting, and reiterated the theme and goals for the year as determined by General Assembly Resolution 46/128.

16. Mr. Blanca also recalled that a special voluntary fund, with a target of US$ 500,000, had been established for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. He said that grants would be made from the fund for small-scale practical projects specifically designed to promote the objectives of the Year. He appealed to Governments for contributions to the fund and assured delegates that he would be active in helping to raise the necessary resources.

17. Mr. Blanca spoke of the importance of the Year and of the need for maximum participation on the part of indigenous peoples. He recalled the six major categories of activities for the Year which had been identified at the March Technical Meeting; these were human rights, development and environment, education and culture, health, self-management and self-government, and public events and information.

18. The Under-Secretary-General described a number of activities to be initiated by the Centre for Human Rights, including the publication of a world calendar of events, a world map of indigenous peoples and a number of books including one of a collection of speeches given at the United Nations by indigenous leaders over the past 10 years, one on environmental studies and one on internal self-government. He mentioned that a newsletter would be published and that the preparation of a database on indigenous peoples was under consideration. The importance of public awareness campaigns was emphasized.

19. The Chairperson, Ms. Ligia Calvis, welcomed the delegates and stressed the importance of the work which would be carried out over the next two days. She emphasized that full participation by indigenous peoples in establishing the directions for 1993 was essential for the success of the Year. The Chairperson asked that delegates consider not only the short-term goals for 1993, but also to keep in mind the need to work towards goals which would bring long-term benefits to indigenous peoples reaching far beyond the International Year.

20. At the request of indigenous representatives, it was agreed that two Vice-Chairpersons be appointed. Mr. Michael Dodson (Northern Land Council, Australia) and Ms. Rigoberta Menchu (International Indian Treaty Council) were elected. In their capacity as Vice-Chairpersons, they prepared summaries of the discussions under agenda items 4, 5 and 6. These summaries are contained in annex 1.

21. There was considerable discussion concerning the agenda, with particular emphasis being given to item 5 (e). A number of indigenous representatives supported the incorporation of the word "self-discrimination" in the agenda. The Chairperson pointed out that the agenda should be used as a guide for the discussions. She added that the concept of self-determination could be considered under item 5 (a) or 5 (e).

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AIMS OF SPECIAL PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

22. Several representatives of indigenous organizations commented upon the theme for the year of "A New Partnership", and indicated that the United Nations system should be committed to ensuring that there is a genuine recognition of the concerns of indigenous peoples. There was general agreement that one significant outcome of the Year would be progress towards the building of a new and meaningful relationship between indigenous peoples and the United Nations; however, this was only one of many outcomes expected. The theme should also be reflected in the general planning for the Year and in the preparation of reports on indigenous issues, particularly in the selection of small-scale practical projects.

23. The representative of Canada expressed support for the theme and for the objectives and intent for the Year as expressed in General Assembly resolutions 45/164 and 46/128.

24. Some indigenous representatives proposed that consideration should be given to establishing a permanent forum for indigenous peoples with official recognition within the United Nations system. Indigenous people could use such a forum to debate concerns freely and to respond to international issues in an atmosphere of equality and mutual respect. Such a forum would need to be supported by a permanent functional secretariat within the United Nations. The representative of Chile acknowledged the need for a place in the system where indigenous peoples could be heard, but said that the idea would require further consideration and development.

25. The representative of Norway expressed the hope that during the Year every effort would be made to enhance the impact of indigenous peoples' contribution to the world, but emphasized that the Year could not address all concerns. All the projects related to the Year should draw upon the existing skills and knowledge of indigenous peoples; in particular, indigenous peoples had an important contribution to make to projects dealing with environmental and resource management matters. The Government of Norway planned to finance the salary of a staff member for the secretariat set up to assist the Coordinator.

26. There was a general feeling that the United Nations should demonstrate a genuine commitment to the Year by responding seriously to indigenous concerns. Every effort should be made by the United Nations system to guarantee the success of the Year through proper consultation and ensuring the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples. United Nations support for the Year could be demonstrated by promptly publishing the posters advertising the Year and by quickly distributing information about the Year. The need to provide this information swiftly to communities was particularly stressed by a number of indigenous speakers.

27. Indigenous speakers noted that events and projects specifically directed towards the celebration of the Year should be meaningful, and not just window-dressing focusing on indigenous folklore. Activities which reinforced the popular "folkloric" images which surrounded indigenous peoples should be avoided at all costs. There was a strong consensus that the Year should support the meaningful priorities identified by indigenous peoples. One indigenous delegate mentioned the need to strengthen legal instruments to

protect indigenous rights, whilst others suggested a range of practical, small-scale projects which, for example, might focus on health, education, agriculture and on the marketing of local products. Other representatives expressed the hope that during 1993 world attention would be focused upon the problems faced by indigenous peoples, that networks would be established, and that lines of communication between groups would be opened up. It was suggested that the overall aim of the special efforts made in 1993 should be to empower indigenous peoples.

28. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 August 1992, the reconvened Technical meeting took up item 4. A number of substantive suggestions were made both by indigenous and government representatives.

29. One representative noted that particular groups of indigenous peoples, such as those in prison, were particularly vulnerable to the abuse of their rights. Many delegates noted that indigenous peoples had seen their basic human rights violated, and they requested the United Nations to monitor the implementation of human rights instruments more closely in nations where they had been ratified. Others pointed out the importance of preserving communal lands, and explained how rights to ancestral lands were basic to indigenous peoples' security and dignity. Every effort should be made by Governments to return alienated ancestral lands. A number of speakers pointed out that indigenous peoples had a great deal of knowledge and understanding of the environment, and were experts in the understanding and control of their own development. Indigenous delegates called for recognition, respect and understanding of their peoples and their contributions to the world.

30. A number of government representatives reiterated their support for the objectives of the Year and for the close involvement of indigenous peoples in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the projects that would affect them. It was important to work towards improving the economic and social situation of indigenous peoples, and to support them in their efforts to sustain their cultures. The representative of Mexico stated that the concerns of indigenous peoples should be recognized in the long term, not just during the Year, and that their relationship with the whole world should be examined in the light of the important contributions that they had made. The protection of their cultural property was a matter for priority attention.

31. The representative of Brazil made a comprehensive statement about the situation of indigenous peoples in his country, and explained the need for a flexible approach in that country as there were 190 groups facing very particular problems which differed from place to place. There was a special need to protect vulnerable groups, thus making it difficult to discuss self-determination as a general issue. It was also important to address problems at the grass-roots level.

32. Governments recognized the importance of providing support for projects which focused on the protection of the environment, health and agriculture. The representative of Senegal emphasized that the needs of indigenous peoples in Africa must not be forgotten, and suggested exchanges of information and experience between the African, Latin American and the Asian-Pacific regions.

33. It was generally accepted that it was important to encourage all the competent bodies within the United Nations system to be involved and to consider how they might contribute to the Year. This point was particularly

emphasized by the representative of France, who also encouraged all Governments to contribute to the Year. The concerns of indigenous peoples should figure on the agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights.

34. At the 3rd meeting, held on 4 August 1992, consideration of item 4 continued with several speakers offering their views on the directions that should be taken during the Year, giving examples from some of the programmes already anticipated in their countries.

35. In Australia, an extensive programme of over 100 events was being planned and many significant activities would be supported. There would be a major focus on youth, and funding would be provided for the Second International Indigenous Youth Conference, a key initiative in that country. The Government, through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, was providing practical support for the Centre for Human Rights by providing the salary of an indigenous staff member for 18 months to assist with the administration of the Year.

36. Several representatives spoke of their Governments' hopes for the Year and affirmed that many national activities would be supported. Health-related projects involving traditional practices, communications projects and human rights issues were all regarded as important by Governments. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed the wish that the Year would be seen as the starting point for strengthening new partnerships and relationships between indigenous peoples and Governments. Projects which were constructive and aimed at strengthening self-sufficiency and self-reliance were seen as priorities.

37. A number of speakers pointed out that it was essential that activities and projects for the Year should aim to have an impact over many years. There were many issues common to indigenous people such as displacement from their lands, loss of property rights, and lack of respect for their cultures and the contributions that they had made to the world. Projects addressing such issues would be worthy of consideration. Indigenous peoples were experts in their own right and should be involved in those projects. The representative of Finland remarked on the need for accurate information about the living conditions of Saami people and suggested that a start could be made to collect such information during the Year. A national committee with Saami representation had been set up in Finland to oversee the activities for the Year.

38. It was felt that organizations in the United Nations system should consider appointing indigenous people as experts and advisers and as staff members on a permanent basis. A start in that direction should be made during the Year.

39. There was a general feeling that the Year should be seen as the start of "a new partnership" with the United Nations. Indigenous peoples expressed the wish to see this partnership continue to develop and grow in strength in the future. It was suggested that both indigenous peoples and the United Nations should be clear about what each expected from the Year. One speaker pointed out that the Year would be a symbolic event and that indigenous peoples should not expect too much because there are limits to what could be achieved. However, it was a time of hope and everyone should exert a special effort to make it a success.

III. CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

40. The Chairperson referred to the first Technical Meeting convened in March 1992, and requested representatives to reflect upon the ideas contained in the report of that meeting when considering projects for the Year.

41. The representative of a non-governmental organization proposed that indigenous issues be placed on the agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993. Indigenous peoples should be encouraged to enter the debate on sovereignty and self-determination, and suggested that the secretariat prepare a paper on those issues to be presented at a future meeting called to evaluate the Year.

42. Other indigenous representatives supported the need to further the debate on self-determination and sovereignty, and the need to exercise ownership and control over indigenous intellectual and cultural property. It was the opinion of some indigenous delegates that any projects addressing the issues of human rights, self-management or self-government should include the right to hold open discussions on the right to self-determination. A significant project would be a seminar on self-determination during the Year. Some speakers expressed the need for human rights monitoring by independent bodies, such as members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, where indigenous peoples were affected by conflicts and military control was being exercised over them.

43. Delegates called repeatedly for indigenous knowledge and ancestral technologies to be respected, and expressed their concern at the fact that their educational systems and organizational models were disregarded whilst alien methods were imposed upon them. They had a wealth of knowledge about ecology and the environment; all they were asking for was knowledge about marketing their products so that they might gain economic independence.

44. There were several calls from indigenous representatives to examine the role and future of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations during 1993 and to consider what might be the next steps in the progress of the draft universal declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. It was seen as important to ensure that knowledge about the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations be disseminated as widely as possible amongst indigenous peoples, and that there should be some regular means of reporting on the situation of indigenous peoples.

45. The treatment indigenous persons received in various legal systems and in courts where their languages were not spoken was also an issue. There was a need to ensure that indigenous peoples were aware of their rights, and that human rights information was available in indigenous languages. The monitoring of human rights around the world was seen as crucial to indigenous peoples. Every effort should be made by Governments and the United Nations to ensure that human rights instruments were ratified.

46. The representative of the World Health Organization expressed that organization's support for the Year, and explained that efforts to address the needs of indigenous peoples would be intensified. That organization's programmes on traditional medicine, substance abuse, health worker training

and environmental health were of particular relevance to indigenous peoples. A meeting would be held to consider the World Health Organization's contribution to the Year.

47. The representative of a non-governmental organization called upon WHO to be more active in developing projects for indigenous people during the Year. It was stated that the principles and basic themes in the "Health for All by the Year 2000" initiative were in harmony with the concerns and aspirations of indigenous peoples and, therefore, the objectives of health-related projects developed by indigenous peoples or the World Health Organization should take those principles and themes into account.

48. A representative of an indigenous organization acknowledged the work done by the Centre for Human Rights in spite of the lack of resources. He suggested that a paper should be prepared on the issue of collective rights, that the genocide of indigenous peoples should be included in the genocide convention, and that indigenous peoples should be sent into conflict zones in a peace-keeping capacity to monitor the situation of indigenous peoples.

49. The representative of Brazil saw human rights education campaigns as important projects for the Year. He stressed the need to examine how the conservation of resources could be enhanced through the preservation of traditional activities and techniques and the promotion of ancestral knowledge. The involvement of indigenous peoples in the implementation of their own health and education programmes was noted as a priority.

50. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees explained that that agency had commissioned a report on the situation of indigenous peoples as refugees, and would be issuing field officers with guidelines for the treatment of indigenous refugees. UNHCR would identify a focal point for indigenous affairs and was planning an internship programme for indigenous graduates.

51. The representative of Chile spoke at length on the need to circulate the text of human rights instruments in indigenous languages, and on how the United Nations system could make a start to addressing this during the Year. It was clear that the United Nations would need to create a focal point to deal with this issue on a permanent basis. The Chilean Government also encouraged UNESCO and WHO to extend special consideration to indigenous peoples, and suggested that there should be a project to support the recommendations of the United Nations Technical Conference on Practical Experience in the Realization of Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Self-Government of Indigenous Peoples held in Santiago.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

52. The representative of the United Nations Department of Public Information explained the progress of the programme being designed by DPI for the Year. The aim was to promote awareness of the concerns and problems of indigenous peoples. A brochure and poster in six languages was being produced and were expected to be ready for publication in August 1992. A press information kit would be available, and the mass media would be targeted on a number of levels. There would be special coverage on radio and television programmes and United Nations publications such as the UN Chronicle would run feature articles on the Year.

53. A number of representatives of organizations were anxious to have details of the proposed programme for the official opening to be held on 10 December 1992. The point was made that indigenous people must be fully consulted about the arrangements for the opening ceremonies and the proposed reception and special event to follow. It was made quite clear that only indigenous performers would be acceptable.

54. Some representatives expressed their disappointment that there would be only three hours made available by the General Assembly for the opening ceremony. It was felt that this allowed too little time for both Governments and indigenous leaders to speak. The point was made that indigenous peoples were not interested in a media event, but that the prime objective was to make an impact on the United Nations and should reflect indigenous concerns. The representative of Canada supported this view.

55. The representative of the International Labour Office advised that the ILO Governing Body had approved an active participation by ILO in the Year. Promotion of the ratification of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) would be intensified as would the programme of technical cooperation already under way. In addition, ILO was in close contact with the DPI and the Centre for Human Rights. It would publish six posters prepared by indigenous designers and a handbook on the subject of technical cooperation assistance, in collaboration with the World Bank.

56. There was general support from Governments for public awareness programmes and for ensuring that information was sent back to indigenous communities. The representative of New Zealand supported the need for a heightened awareness of indigenous peoples' concerns throughout the international community, and encouraged DPI to provide the posters and information kits as quickly as possible. The United Nations was further encouraged to cooperate with indigenous peoples in the development of information campaigns and to utilize the resources of major media outlets. The representative of a television company based in Europe that produces documentaries spoke of a special season of television programmes to be produced and sponsored by that company to make a particular impact during the Year.

57. The representative of Mexico made a comprehensive statement about activities supported by that Government. Indigenous media and communications projects would be supported and particular attention would be directed towards the recognition of and preservation of indigenous languages and traditional medicines.

58. The representative of New Zealand advised that five major events would take place in New Zealand during 1993. There would be conferences on sovereignty, intellectual and cultural property rights, women and spiritual leadership, and a symposium for traditional weavers.

59. One indigenous representative expressed the hope that the public awareness programmes for the Year would not neglect to highlight the special needs of indigenous groups in Africa; those peoples wanted to participate and contribute to the success of the Year.

60. The representative of Denmark noted that her Government was supporting the preparation and publication of a manual on indigenous self-government. It would also pay the salary of an indigenous staff member to work in the Centre for Human Rights for one year.

V. CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT GUIDELINES, FINANCIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE YEAR AND COORDINATION

61. A number of government representatives commented on the need for guidelines and adequate financial provisions for projects. The representative of Sweden provided a number of suggestions to be incorporated into the draft guidelines. The representative also hoped that the Coordinator would provide an account and description of projects which were funded from the special Voluntary Fund at the end of the Year.

62. It was generally accepted that the amount of $500,000 was sufficient only to enable a small number of projects to be funded. However, it was suggested that an impact could be made if a small number of good-quality projects were to be funded. Several government representatives noted the wish of their Governments to work with indigenous peoples during the year to improve general understanding of the issues facing them. Certain countries had set up consultative committees with indigenous peoples and indicated that they were working together to ensure the success of the Year.

63. There were a number of suggestions about how funds could be raised and ideas about how Governments and non-governmental organizations could support the Year. An indigenous representative called upon Governments, non-governmental organizations and indigenous groups to support the Centre for Human Rights in its endeavours to administer the Year.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

64. A draft text was circulated for comment. The Chairperson explained that this document, and the summaries prepared by the Vice-Chairpersons which would form the annex, would not need to be approved or adopted. It was intended that discussion on this agenda item would provide suggestions for the guidance of the Coordinator. The Chairperson encouraged delegates to send further suggestions to the secretariat.

A. Conclusions

65. The Technical Meeting welcomed the decision to reconvene a meeting on the Year to allow further exchange of ideas on the planning and implementation of activities for the Year among indigenous peoples, Governments, United Nations agencies, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties.

66. The Technical Meeting took note of document E/CN.4/1992/AC.4/TM.2/2 containing information about the activities contemplated for the Year and the draft guidelines for projects prepared by the secretariat. The Note was considered a useful input for the activities of the Year.

67. The Technical Meeting welcomed the establishment by the Coordinator of a small team of indigenous administrators to assist him during the Year and expressed appreciation to the indigenous peoples' organizations and Governments which had provided assistance.

68. The Technical Meeting reaffirmed its support for the aims of the Year as contained in General Assembly resolution 46/128 and in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/46/543), which were referred to in the opening statement of the Coordinator of the International Year.

69. The Technical Meeting emphasized that projects undertaken in conformity with the objectives of the Year should directly benefit indigenous peoples and communities and that public information activities should be aimed at raising worldwide understanding of the cultures and situations of indigenous peoples.

70. The Technical Meeting noted the suggestion that the Coordinator could consider reconvening the Technical Meeting for a third session prior to the opening of the International Year to allow continuing dialogue among the interested parties.

71. The Technical Meeting noted the summaries prepared by the Vice-chairpersons contained in annex I to its report which, together with the suggestions made at the first Technical Meeting, could assist the Coordinator in his work for the Year as well as others preparing activities for the Year.

72. The Technical Meeting took note of the well-elaborated projects and initiatives which were proposed at the Meeting.

B. Recommendations

73. The Technical Meeting recommended that the Coordinator give priority to projects directly benefiting indigenous peoples, primarily but not exclusively in developing countries.

74. The Technical Meeting recommended that the Coordinator supplement the public information activities carried out by the Department of Public Information with activities as suggested by the Meeting and the Note by the secretariat, with a view to increasing awareness in the media and the general public about the situations and cultures of indigenous peoples.

75. The Technical Meeting recommended that the Coordinator include indigenous persons from Latin America and Asia in the team of indigenous administrators assisting him in the International Year.

76. The Technical Meeting recommended that the Coordinator provide full support to the staff responsible for coordinating activities for the Year, in particular the team of indigenous administrators, including office space and furniture, computers, and other infrastructural support to allow them to carry out their work effectively.

77. The Technical Meeting recommended that the advisory group established to assist the Coordinator in selecting projects to be assisted under the Voluntary Fund for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People include the indigenous administrators assisting him during the Year.

78. The Technical Meeting recommended that at the end of the Year the Coordinator give an account and short description of the projects that had been supported through the Voluntary Fund.

79. The Technical Meeting recommended that the Coordinator distribute the report of the Meeting to all Governments, intergovernmental and indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations, and that he request information on the activities they were carrying out in conformity with the Year's objectives and suggestions on further activities that could be undertaken.

80. The Technical Meeting recommended that the Coordinator give special priority to projects which protect and promote the human rights of indigenous peoples.

81. The Technical Meeting recommended that the Coordinator use the funds available to him in the Voluntary Fund for the Year in accordance with the suggestions and guidelines set out by the Meeting. The Coordinator should, furthermore, encourage other bodies, including Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and other appropriate institutions, to supplement those activities with their own funds and serve as a catalyst for initiatives and projects.

82. The Technical Meeting recommended that each intergovernmental organization find ways to involve indigenous peoples in a permanent dialogue.

Annex

SUMMARIES OF DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS PREPARED BY THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

Agenda item 4: Aims of special projects to be implemented during 1993

1. To ensure that indigenous peoples and Governments work as equal partners in dignity and mutual respect in all matters concerning indigenous peoples and that these peoples can consider and execute their own projects, in particular in the participation, planning, management, execution and evaluation of projects to be carried out in the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

2. To eliminate all forms of racism against all indigenous peoples including policies of assimilation, paternalism, protectionism and integrationism applying to indigenous peoples.

3. To promote the solidarity of all indigenous peoples of the world.

4. To invite Governments to consider indigenous peoples' projects as priorities and also to give priority to governmental projects directed towards indigenous peoples.

5. To promote the opening of spaces and the creation of mechanisms for indigenous peoples at all levels, in particular for the full respect and effective guarantees of the human rights of indigenous peoples.

6. To promote action amongst Governments to protect and demarcate the communal lands and territories of indigenous peoples.

7. To promote the assistance of all governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental agencies for the realization of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

8. To promote actions to eliminate unequal treatment of indigenous peoples at all levels in national and international legal instruments.

9. To promote the establishment of closer relationships and better understanding between human rights bodies including the secretariats and indigenous peoples.

10. To invite the specialized agencies of the United Nations, including the Committee on Decolonization, to participate in the International Year and to take appropriate actions in their respective fields of competence.

Suggested projects

1. Consider ways to arrange for indigenous health experts to address the World Health Organization.

2. To have projects target particular groups among indigenous peoples such as women, children, the aged and the infirm during the International Year.

3. To emphasize projects which constitute a step towards autonomy for indigenous peoples.

4. To convene a conference for indigenous peoples and African peoples.

5. To conduct activities which will increase public awareness and raise consciousness about indigenous peoples and their cultures.

6. To conduct activities to promote the natural and environmental health of indigenous peoples and activities to enhance their employment and educational opportunities.

Suggested recommendations

1. Consider the establishment of a committee of indigenous health experts within the World Health Organization.

2 Consider the establishment of a Centre of Indigenous Health within the World Health Organization of.

3. Consider the publication by the World Health Organization of an annual report on indigenous health.

4. The establishment of an administrative apparatus for reviewing projects which ensures the input of indigenous peoples.

5. To develop a campaign during the International Year to examine the situation of indigenous peoples held in prisons, with a view to their release.

6. To emphasize projects which will be of long term and sustainable benefit to indigenous peoples.

7. To develop means by which indigenous peoples can have full access to technology and investment.

8. To promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples' concerns in the World Conference on Human Rights.

9. To conduct activities, programmes and projects that maximize control and management by indigenous peoples.

Agenda item 5: Consideration of projects for the International Year

Objective

Highlight projects which benefit indigenous peoples in the long term and which are sustainable.

Develop programmes so that indigenous peoples have full access to technology and investment without forgetting the existence of traditional technology.

1. With the full participation of indigenous peoples, the creation of a United Nations organism to administer the International Year, including a permanent council of indigenous peoples which promotes access to the forums which exist in the United Nations.

2. Organize a conference of cultural exchange in which indigenous peoples from all over the world (Americas, Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania) may participate.

3. Ensure the implementation of national legal provisions which respect the indigenous identity and indigenous rights and promote the promulgation of similar laws in those States in which appropriate national legislation does not yet exist.

4. Implement projects to stimulate the commercialization, at reasonable prices, of the produce of indigenous peoples at the national, regional and international levels.

5. From 1993, the publication of an annual report by the United Nations on the state of the human rights of indigenous peoples which would also contain historical facts, geographical location of indigenous populations, maps and photographs.

6. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations should visit areas where indigenous peoples live and which are subjected to armed internal conflict.

7. As a priority, information about the International Year should be distributed throughout the entire international community and in particular amongst indigenous peoples.

8. The creation of an independent judicial committee in Guatemala made up of indigenous peoples and human rights organizations to monitor the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in that country.

9. That the United Nations design a programme to collect sufficient funds to satisfy the varied demands of indigenous peoples during the International Year and for activities in the long term.

10. Publicize the texts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other international instruments in indigenous communities to guarantee respect for the personal and cultural dignity of indigenous peoples.

11. Promote respect for ceremonial sites and for the historical significance of those sites to indigenous peoples and guarantee unrestricted access to those sites and control over them, in accordance with traditional customs, to indigenous peoples.

12. Convene a congress of indigenous intellectuals on the American continent and in any other region which may desire it.

13. Develop a campaign during the International Year which examines the situation of members of indigenous populations who are in prison, with the aim of obtaining their freedom.

14. Carry out an open conference on the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination in accordance with the International Public Rights.

15. The holding of regional seminars, with the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples, on the different forms the Year can adopt to promote the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination.

16. Promote the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169.

17. Consideration should be given to the creation of a Centre for Indigenous Health within the World Health Organization, to be staffed by indigenous specialists in the field of traditional medicine. The World Health Organization should consider the publication of an annual report on indigenous health.

18. Promote projects on natural medicine as practised by indigenous peoples and, in this manner, promote the contribution of such medicine to science in general and to medicine in particular.

19. Give emphasis to those projects which generate income, investment, reciprocal transfer of technology and training as the first step towards autonomy for indigenous people.

20. Establish spaces to enable interchanges between indigenous peoples' media organizations and develop programmes to increase the use of the media amongst indigenous peoples.

21. The question of the human rights of indigenous peoples should be included in the agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights.

22. Activities which favour maximum control and self-administration by indigenous peoples should be realized by indigenous peoples.

23. Organize activities which promote natural health and maintenance of a healthy environment. Develop and expand programmes of education aimed at the general population in relation to natural medicine.

24. Implement specialized programmes to satisfy the demands of refugees and other displaced indigenous peoples.

25. Promote different linguistic projects, controlled by indigenous people themselves, with the aim of documenting the languages of indigenous peoples.

Agenda item 6: Public information activities

1. The promotion and dissemination of information in the Nordic and Russian regions about indigenous peoples. The encouragement of the provision of materials and information to the media about the living conditions and special knowledge of the indigenous peoples, with their consent.

2. Promote the exchange of research and ideas targeting, in particular, the human rights research and assistance to community groups about decision-making.

3. Promote a study or studies on economic, social and legal matters having an impact on indigenous peoples.

4. Promote the education of indigenous women, especially women who are victims of family violence, to participate in national and international forums on, in particular, family violence.

5. Promote the employment of indigenous lawyers in human rights bodies.

6. Specific projects outlined by the representative of the "Television Trust for the Environment". Their campaign is designed to involve indigenous peoples in a multi-media package. Their project has been submitted to the Centre for Human Rights.

7. A number of projects outlined by the representative of the Government of New Zealand in the hope for a long-lasting impact and to heighten awareness of the diverse realities of indigenous peoples.

8. The "In the Spirit of Human Rights" project designed to enable local groups which are undertaking projects emphasizing studies on human rights; this project has the advantage of being income-generating.

9. The launch of the International Year should promote the substance of what is to be said, not promote individuals, and should have an impact upon and extend a challenge to the United Nations to stand firm on human rights and fundamental freedoms.